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Brazil and Japan: draft resolution

Tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/153 of 18 December 2008 on the follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers, and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary,

Noting that the momentum created by the International Year has contributed to the vibrancy of volunteerism globally with the involvement of more people, from a broader cross-section of societies,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster prevention and management, social integration, humanitarian action and peacebuilding,

Bearing in mind the need for an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers to be pursued in the relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the successful observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011, and welcomes also the growth and development of volunteerism since the International Year of Volunteers in 2001;

2. *Acknowledges* that the tenth anniversary has provided the opportunity and impetus for an increased and unprecedented level of collaboration among Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, private sector partners, and people from a broad cross-section of societies all over the world, and reaffirms the need for further efforts to achieve the goals of the International Year in the areas of the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteerism worldwide;

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3. *Commends* the contributions from national and international volunteers for their fundamental role in disaster prevention and recovery, recently evidenced in their performance in the aftermath of natural catastrophes, such as mass landslides and floods in south-eastern Brazil and the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake;

4. *Recognizes* the valuable contribution of volunteering, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help and other forms of civic participation, to social and economic development, thus benefiting society at large, communities and volunteer networks;

5. *Encourages* Member States to support the establishment of knowledge and information platforms and focal points at international, regional, national and local levels to foster the sharing of resources and good practices of volunteerism that could be adapted, implemented, replicated and scaled up on a sustained basis;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to enact sound regulatory frameworks with a view to providing well-defined conditions of service for volunteers, and to clear any ambiguities that can lead to abuses on the part of either volunteers or organizations, thus enabling the establishment of a good governance system to manage volunteerism;

7. *Reaffirms* the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism in order to engage and benefit all segments of society, including women, children, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

8. *Acknowledges* the importance of civil society organizations to the promotion of volunteerism, and, in that respect, recognizes that strengthening the dialogue and interaction among civil society, Member States and the United Nations contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;

9. *Takes note* that volunteerism contributes to human development, and calls on Governments to integrate volunteering more fully into peace and development programmes and initiatives that offer opportunities to build strong and cohesive volunteer coalitions around shared goals at local, national, regional and international levels;

10. *Takes note* of the actions by Governments to support volunteerism, and reiterates its call upon them to continue such action;

11. *Calls for* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, and encourages the recognition and inclusion of volunteer contributions in future United Nations and other relevant international conferences;

12. *Recognizes* the importance to further involve all relevant partners, including civil society, and facilitate their cooperation and coordination to create an enabling environment for individuals to engage in volunteer activities and promote the well-being of volunteers, welcomes in this regard the expanding involvement of the private sector in support of volunteerism, and encourages its further engagement by expanding corporate volunteering and employee volunteer activities;

13. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Volunteers as the focal point for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in support of

Member States, including by co-hosting the International Year of Volunteers plus 10 regional consultations and the global volunteer conference, and requests the United Nations Volunteers to continue their efforts to promote volunteerism, including through the mobilization of national and international volunteers and the development of newer and innovative recruitment modalities such as on-line volunteering;

14. *Emphasizes* that people-to-people relations are the core value of volunteerism, and encourages further efforts to build and strengthen networks among volunteers and all relevant partners at the national, regional and international levels, including the World Volunteer Web as a global networking hub;

15. *Welcomes* the active engagement of national committees and coordinating bodies in the promotion of the International Year of Volunteers plus 10, and emphasizes the importance of further enhancing this global network to build their partnership and share experiences and good practices;

16. *Recognizes* the need to further strengthen the link between domestic volunteers and international volunteer-sending organizations to facilitate the globalization of volunteer opportunities;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of volunteering and the participation of individuals and communities in a holistic and people-centred approach to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and human security and in the deliberation on the global sustainable development agenda "beyond 2015", including that arising from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

18. *Also emphasizes* that volunteerism offers unique opportunities for youth engagement and leadership to contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing youth to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability;

19. *Requests* Governments and the United Nations system to work together with other volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the security and protection of volunteers;

20. *Looks forward* to a full report on the marking of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, as well as recommendations to further integrate volunteering in peace and development during the next decade and beyond, bearing in mind the request to the Secretary-General to report on this subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Social development".